

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2594

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008

TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the commodities exported from India and imported from Pakistan during each of the last three years and the current year, commodity-wise, value-wise, year-wise;

(b) whether an Indo-Pakistan Joint Group has been constituted to explore the possibilities of bilateral trade;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has entered into any agreement with Pakistan for bilateral trade across the Line of Control;

(e) if so, the details thereof including items proposed for trade and the routes to be used for trade;

(f) whether any complaints have been received by the Government regarding inadequacy of infrastructure/facilities at different points/routes opened for trade with Pakistan in the country;

(g) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(h) the steps the Government has taken/proposed to take, especially in terms of provision of necessary infrastructure/facilities to boost the bilateral trade with Pakistan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) The figures of bilateral trade between India and Pakistan during the year 2005-2006 onwards are given below:

(In US\$ million)

YEAR	Exports to Pakistan	Imports from Pakistan	Total Trade
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2005-06	689	180	869
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2006-07	1349	323	1672
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2007-08	1944	288	2232
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2008-09	614	124	738
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(Apr-July)

Source DGCI&S Kolkata through NIC DOC

The item-wise details of trade between the two countries for the last three years, upto 2007-2008 are available in the website <http://commerce.nic.in> under the heading Export Import Data Bank. As per provisional information available, the top ten items of export and import between India and Pakistan I during April-July 2008 are given below:

Top ten items of export to Pakistan from India during April-July 2008 (2008-2009)

Sl.No.	Commodity	Value in US \$ million
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1.	Dyes/intmdtes & coal tar chemical	153.48
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2.	Petroleum (crude & products)	65.39
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3.	Cotton raw including waste	54.40
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4.	Oil meals	39.11
5.	Spices	33.29
6.	Manmade yarn, fabrics, made-ups	30.59
7	Drugs, pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals	28.06
8.	Plastic & linoleum products	27.12
9.	Other cereals	26.24
10.	Rubber mfd. products except footwear	15.44

Top ten items of import from Pakistan into India during April-July 2008 (2008-2009)

Sl.No. Commodity Value in US \$ million million

1.	Petroleum, crude & products	48.87
2.	Cement	30.66
3.	Cotton yarn & fabrics	13.95
4.	Leather	5.40
5.	Lruits & nuts excl cashew nuts	5.17
6.	Lther commodities	4.25
7	Lon-ferrous metals	2.33
8.	Eool, raw	2.13
9.	Organic chemicals	2.07
10.	Metalifers ores & metal scrap	1.97

Source DGCI&S Kolkata through NIC DOC

(b) and (c) The India Pakistan Joint Study Group (JSG) at Commerce Secretary -level constituted in 2005 has so far met three times. At its third meeting held on 2nd August 2007 in New Delhi, both sides, inter alia, decided to facilitate trade in goods by addressing the issues such as customs cooperation, standards, certification system etc.

(d) & (e). As part of Confidence Building Measures with Pakistan, Cross LoC trade on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakot routes commenced from 21st October 2008. Twenty one items for trade have been identified for duty-free passage. Items to be traded from Salamabad to Chakoti and Chakandabagh to Rawalakot are carpets, rugs, wall hangings, shawls and stoles, fresh fruits and vegetables, aromatic plants, dry fruits including walnuts, Kashmiri spices, spring rubberised coir/foam mattresses, furniture including walnut furniture etc. Similarly, items to be traded from Chakoti to Salamabad and Rawalakot to Chakandabagh are rice, precious stones, dry fruits including walnuts, medicinal herbs, fresh fruits and vegetables, furniture including walnut furniture, carpets and rugs, embroidered items, foam mattresses, shawls and stoles.

(f) and (g) . Certain representations have been received for addressing the issues such as infrastructure developments, etc. to facilitate smooth LOC Trade. The Government has decided to provide funds for creating minimum infrastructure facilities for the LOC trade at the above two places as per the specifications and requirements to be spelt out by the Government of J&K.

(h) India has, inter alia, taken following initiatives to boost bilateral trade:

(i) The issues of mutual concerns are discussed to address them to the extent feasible through Commerce-Secretary level talks on Economic and Commercial Cooperation within the framework of Composite Dialogue. The last round of this dialogue was held on 31 July-1 August 2007 in New Delhi.

(ii) Back to back movement of trucks for loading and unloading for trade between India and Pakistan became operational at Attari-Wagah LCS since October 2007.

(iii) Development of the infrastructure at Attari has been taken up as a priority project in the Integrated Check Post Project initiated by India.

(iv) Expeditious completion of statutory certification related formalities for import of cement from Pakistan.

(v) Both sides decided to open two bank branches in either country.